

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11  
ACDA-12 SOE-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NASA-01 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15  
CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00  
INRE-00 /145 W

-----119503 260035Z /20

O 252352Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1579

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02128

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UNGA

SUBJECT: REACTION TO VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT SSOD  
MAY 24

1. SUMMARY: GENERAL REACTION TO VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WAS THAT IT WAS TOUGH, WITH PARTICULAR NOTE OF OUR SHARP COMMENTARY ON SOVIET BUILDUP. MANY DELS BELIEVED SPEECH WAS ADDRESSED MAINLY TO DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION. ALLIED REACTION VARIED, WITH MOST FINDING IT CLEAR AND GOOD SUMMARY OF WESTERN CONCERNS; SOVIETS FOUND IT UNHELPFUL; NON-ALIGNED GENERALLY EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT FOCUS ON EAST/WEST ISSUES AND ABSENCE OF MAJOR INITIATIVES. MANY DELS ARE ANTICIPATING STRONG SOVIET REACTION. END SUMMARY.
2. DEL HAS MADE QUICK SURVEY OF INITIAL REACTIONS TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S ADDRESS. RECOGNIZING THAT THESE REACTIONS ARE PRELIMINARY AND THAT SOME INTERLOCUTORS MAY HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING PERSONAL VIEWS, FAIRLY CLEAR PATTERN HAS NEVERTHELESS EMERGED.
3. ALMOST UNIVERSAL FIRST RESPONSE WAS THAT SPEECH WAS  
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TOUGH--TOUGHER THAN ANTICIPATED BY  
MOST. NON-ALIGNED ARE CLEARLY DISAPPOINTED WITH YUGOSLAVS  
MOST OUTSPOKEN. ALLIED AND EUROPEAN REACTION VARIED; SOME  
WERE PLEASED, OTHERS THOUGHT IT WAS A LITTLE TOO HEAVY ON  
US-SOVIET DIFFERENCES AND EUROPEAN SECURITY. SOVIETS  
APPEAR TO BE UNHAPPY WITH THRUST OF SPEECH BUT  
GROMYKO WAS OVERHEARD IN BRIEF EXCHANGE WITH REPORTER TO

SAY THAT HE WAS "COMFORTABLE" WITH IT.

4. SOME SPECIFIC COMMENTS :

- USSR - DEPUTY PERMREP (FOKIN) CHARACTERIZED SPEECH AS "VERY UNHELPFUL". HE SAID THAT ASIDE FROM FACT THAT IT DID NOT CONTAIN ANY NEW IDEAS FOR PROGRESS WHICH SOVIETS THOUGHT US MIGHT ADVANCE, SPEECH WAS AGGRESSIVE IN TONE AND SUBSTANCE. HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT US AND SOVIETS HAD LEARNED OVER PAST TEN YEARS HOW TO COMMUNICATE FRANKLY WITH EACH OTHER WITHOUT KIND OF LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN US SPEECH. HE ALSO SAID SPEECH HAD MADE TOO MANY BOWS IN THE DIRECTION OF OTHER CONTINENTS AND GROUPS SUCH AS NON-ALIGNED WHICH WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE COMMON US-SOVIET OBJECTIVES DURING SSOD. SOVIET DELOFF (VAVILOV) SARCASTICALLY THANKED US DELOFF FOR "SUCH A FRIENDLY SPEECH." AMB. ISSRAELYAN SAID "IT WAS NOT A GOOD SPEECH" AND SOVIETS WOULD HAVE TO RESPOND, BUT THAT US AND SOVIET DELS SHOULD CONTINUE TO TRY TO COOPERATE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES AT SSOD.

- INDIA - PERMREP (JAIPAL) SAID THAT WHILE SPEECH WAS "TECHNICALLY GOOD" IT FELT "FAR SHORT" OF HIS EXPECTATIONS AND OF WHAT HE BELIEVED SITUATION CALLED FOR. HE SAID THERE WAS NO DEMONSTRATION OF MORAL OR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN THE SPEECH AND THAT MOST OF THE WORLD EXPECTED THAT OF

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THE US WHETHER THEY DID NOT OF THE SOVIET UNION. HE ADDED THAT IT ALSO SOUNDED LIKE IT WAS DRAFTED BY A COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED.

-SRI LANKA-REP (FONSEKA) SAID SPEECH WAS "VERY TOUGH" AND NOT HELPFUL FOR THE START OF THE SSOD.

-YUGOSLAVIA-DEPUTY REP MUJEZINOVIC SAID "YOU HAVE NOT GIVEN US A GIFT FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION," ADDING THAT THIS WAS A BAD AUGURY FOR THE START OF THE SSOD.

-NIGERIA-(AMB. ADENIJI) NOTED TOUGHNESS AND GENERALLY APPLAUDED SPEECH BUT SAID FINAL JUDGMENT OF ITS IMPACT ON SSOD WOULD DEPEND UPON WHAT SOVIETS SAID.

-AUSTRIA-TWO MEMBERS OF DELEGATION CHARACTERIZED SPEECH AS "TOUGH, FISH FIGHTING" STATEMENT AND SAID IT MIGHT HELP WITH RATIFICATION OF SALT.

-SWEDEN-(EKMUND) FOREIGN OFFICE REP NOTED "VERY SHARP" COMMENTS ON SS-20 AND SAID TONE SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT PROSPECTS ARE NOT TOO GOOD FOR PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT.

SWEDES APPRECIATED REFERENCE TO DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT  
AND TO US RECORD OF PUTTING GREATER EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT  
THAN ON MILITARY AID IN AFRICA.

-NORWAY-DEPUTY PERMREP VRAALSEN WAS SURPRISED BY  
STRENGTH OF LANGUAGE DIRECTED AT USSR AND THOUGHT SPEECH,  
WHILE BASICALLY SOUND, WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THIS  
FORUM (A FAIRLY WIDESPREAD COMMENT). HE NOTED CONTRAST  
BETWEEN PRESIDENT'S OCTOBER 1977 STATEMENT ON DISARMAMENT  
AND THIS SPEECH, WHICH MOVED IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.

-UK-HEAD OF DISARMAMENT DEPARTMENT, FCO, FOUND SPEECH GOOD,  
TOUGH STATEMENT.

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-FRANCE-(COUNSELOR RAPIN) SAID IT WAS SOLID STATEMENT AND  
WAS IN SOME WAYS PARALLEL TO FRANCE'S SPEECH TO BE DELI-  
VERED TOMORROW.

-AUSTRALIA-(FIRST SECRETARY OXLEY) SAID SPECIFIC REFERENCES

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O 252352Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1580

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02128

TO SOVIETS DETRACTED FROM THE GOOD TONE. HE NOTED THAT  
THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO NPT.

5. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION THAT US ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN ABOUT PENDING SALT RATIFICATION PROCESS OR, PERHAPS, ANTICIPATED SOVIET PUSH ON "NEUTRON ISSUE BOMB ISSUE ACCOUNTED FOR EMPHASIS ON SOVIET ARMS BUILD-UP OTHER SPECIFIC POINTS WHICH DREW ATTENTION WERE ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE TO NPT AND SPECIFIC CALL FOR FOLLOW-UP SSOD IN 1981, RATHER THAN IN 1983 AS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED.

6. DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO POSTS AS DESIRED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPEECHES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REACTION TO VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT SSOD MAY 24  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, UNGA, (MONDALE, WALTER F)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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